

April 4, 2012

Mayor James O'Neal 840 N. Boonville Avenue Springfield, MO 65802-3832

Dear Mayor O'Neal:

to Many Collette Wille by Today's headlines are filled with stories of children and adults who have been injured, or even killed, in vicious animal attacks. Contrary to what cartoonists and comedians might think about dogs and the letter carriers - dog attacks are no laughing matter.



Between October 13, 2007 to date, Springfield letter carriers were the victims of 47 dog incidents. 38 of these incidents have been in the zipcode areas 65802, 65803, and 65806.

As we focus on the future of the Postal Service and on delivering value to the American public. we must do so with an ever increasing resolve to promote safety and well-being of our employees. Medical expenses, workers' compensation, legal costs, delivery curtailment, carrier replacement, and other costs associated with dog bite accidents are costly for the Postal Service. The cost in employee pain and suffering cannot be measured. In 2010, Springfield, Missouri ranked 23rd in the nation for dog attacks.

We are calling on city leaders like yourself to come together to discuss how we together can combat this growing problem. While in 2010 the Postal Service nationwide had 5,700 dog incidents; this is not just a Postal Service issue. Other service employees including police, emergency responders and social workers face these same dangers as they carry out their day-today activities.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) reports that small children, the elderly, and letter carriers - in that order - are the most frequent victims. It is reported that children suffer more than 2 million dog incidents each year.

As community leaders we have a joint responsibility to do everything possible to prevent animal attacks. We are asking that you help establish a forum for us to open up a dialogue on this issue.

Sincerely,

William Brayman

Postmaster

Terry Long

President, NALC Branch 203

Herry Long

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